

with this legislation. I believe that this bill constitutes a fair and complete proposal, sufficiently providing for the legitimate needs of the public at large and all interested groups, and deserves to be enacted in this form.

It took more than a decade before the Colorado delegation and the Congress were finally able, in 1993, to pass a statewide national forest wilderness bill. Since then, action has been completed on bills designating wilderness in the Spanish Peaks area of the San Isabel National Forest as well as in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, the Gunnison Gorge, the Black Ridge portion of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area, and the James Peak area of the Arapaho, Roosevelt National Forests.

We now need to continue making progress regarding wilderness designations for deserving lands, including other public lands in our state that are managed by the Bureau of Land Management. And the time is ripe for finally resolving the status of the lands within Rocky Mountain National Park that are dealt with in the bill I am introducing today.

All Coloradans know that the question of possible impacts on water rights can be a primary point of contention in Congressional debates over designating wilderness areas. So, it's very important to understand that the question of water rights for Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness is entirely different from many considered before, and is far simpler.

To begin with, it has long been recognized under the laws of the United States and Colorado, including a decision of the Colorado Supreme Court, that Rocky Mountain National Park already has extensive federal reserved water rights arising from the creation of the national park itself.

This is not, so far as I have been able to find out, a controversial decision, because there is a widespread consensus that there should be no new water projects developed within Rocky Mountain National Park. And, since the park sits astride the continental divide, there's no higher land around from which streams flow into the park, so there is no possibility of any upstream diversions. And it's important to emphasize that in any event water rights associated with wilderness would amount only to guarantees that water will continue to flow through and out of the park as it always has. This preserves the natural environment of the park, but it doesn't affect downstream water use.

The bottom line is that once water leaves the park, it will continue to be available for diversion and use under Colorado law regardless of whether or not lands within the park are designated as wilderness.

These legal and practical realities are reflected in my bill—as in my predecessor's—by inclusion of a finding that because the park already has these extensive reserved rights to water, there is no need for any additional reservation of such right, and an explicit disclaimer that the bill affects any such reservation.

Some may ask, why should we designate wilderness in a national park? Isn't park protection the same as wilderness, or at least as good? The answer is that the wilderness designation will give an important additional level of protection to most of the park.

Our national park system was created, in part, to recognize and preserve prime examples of outstanding landscape. At Rocky

Mountain National Park in particular, good Park Service management over the past 83 years has kept most of the park in a natural condition. And all the lands that are covered by this bill are currently being managed, in essence, to protect their wilderness character. Formal wilderness designation will no longer leave this question to the discretion of the Park Service, but will make it clear that within the designated areas there will never be roads, visitor facilities, or other manmade features that interfere with the spectacular natural beauty and wildness of the mountains.

This kind of protection is especially important for a park like Rocky Mountain, which is relatively small by western standards. As nearby land development and alteration has accelerated in recent years, the pristine nature of the park's backcountry becomes an increasingly rare feature of Colorado's landscape.

Further, Rocky Mountain National Park's popularity demands definitive and permanent protection for wild areas against possible pressures for development with the park. While only about one tenth the size of Yellowstone National Park, Rocky Mountain sees nearly the same number of visitors each year as does our first national park.

At the same time, designating these carefully selected portions of Rocky Mountain as wilderness will make other areas, now restricted under interim wilderness protection management, available for overdue improvements to park roads and visitor facilities.

So, Mr. Speaker, this bill will protect some of our nation's finest wild lands. It will protect existing rights. It will not limit any existing opportunity for new water development. And it will affirm our commitment in Colorado to preserving the very features that make our State such a remarkable place to live. So, I think the bill deserves prompt enactment.

I am attaching a fact sheet that outlines the main provisions of this bill:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ACT

Rocky Mountain National Park

Rocky Mountain National Park, one of the nation's most visited parks, possesses some of the most pristine and striking alpine ecosystems and natural landscapes in the continental United States. This park straddles the Continental Divide along Colorado's northern Front Range. It contains high altitude lakes, herds of bighorn sheep and elk, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra, old-growth forests and thundering rivers. It also contains Longs Peak, one of Colorado's 54 fourteen thousand-foot peaks.

The Bill

The bill is based on one introduced by Rep. UDALL in the 106th and 107th Congresses and similar legislation proposed by former Congressman David Skaggs and others previously. It would:

designate about 249,562 acres within Rocky Mountain National Park, or about 94 percent of the Park, as wilderness, including Longs Peak—the areas included is based on the recommendations prepared over 25 years ago by President Nixon with some revisions in boundaries to reflect acquisitions and other changes since that recommendation was submitted

designate about 1,000-acres as potential wilderness until non-conforming structures are removed

provide that if non-federal inholdings within the wilderness boundaries are acquired by the United States, they will become part of the wilderness and managed accordingly

The bill would NOT:

create a new federal reserved water right; instead, it includes a finding that the Park's existing federal reserved water rights, as decided by the Colorado courts, are sufficient

include certain lands in the Park as wilderness, including Trail Ridge and other roads used for motorized travel, water storage and conveyance structures, buildings, developed areas of the Park, some private inholdings

Existing Water Facilities

Boundaries for the wilderness are drawn to exclude existing storage and conveyance structures assuring continued use of the Grand River Ditch and its right-of-way, the east and west portals of the Adams Tunnel and gauging stations of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, Long Draw Reservoir, and lands owned by the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District—including Copeland Reservoir.

The bill includes provisions to make clear that its enactment will not impose new restrictions on already allowed activities for the operation, maintenance, repair, or reconstruction of the Adams Tunnel, which diverts water under Rocky Mountain National Park (including lands that would be designated by the bill) or other Colorado-Big Thompson Project facilities, and that additional activities for these purposes will be allowed should they be necessary to respond to emergencies and subject to reasonable restrictions.

RECOGNITION OF J. MICHAEL DORSEY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, we rise to thank and recognize J. Michael Dorsey for his outstanding service and contributions to the House community during his tenure beginning January 1, 1995.

Because of his distinguished legal career, Mike was asked to serve as the first Administrative Counsel in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer when the new House organization was created in 1995. An ambitious agenda to change the way the House operated was proposed, and Mike was instrumental in accomplishing many of those goals.

A solid leader, Mike demonstrated the ability to effectively juggle many competing priorities. In addition to keeping the CAO legally and ethically pure, he also served as interim Associate Administrator for the Office of Procurement and Human Resources. He initiated and contributed to business process improvements, provided legal guidance to House staff, developed policies, and applied his expertise in the areas of contracting, negotiation, and legal disputes.

Most recently, Mike's professionalism, patriotism, and steadfastness served the House well under historic and trying times. He met the challenges of September 11, 2001, the subsequent anthrax evacuation of House offices, and on-going mail process activities with patience, excellence, and reasoned judgment.

Mike is a team player, known for his integrity, fairness, principles, dedication, and solid steady demeanor. He has made a difference—he has made the House a better place. As he leaves us on February 14, he will continue to serve our nation in areas of critical

importance. He has served the House and our country as a true patriot, and we extend our thanks to him for his service, and wish him all the best for continued success.

HONORING MR. DAVID SEIM

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to an honor recently bestowed on my constituent and friend, Mr. David Seim.

Recently, David was awarded the Rita Harmon Volunteer Service Award from the Lubbock Area United Way in recognition of his lifetime of community service. David's work with various organizations such as the South Plains Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Lubbock Country Club, the Southwest Lubbock Rotary Club, YWCA, Covenant Health System and Trinity Church exemplify his selfless nature and dedication to the public good. Through his hard work and giving nature, the Lubbock community has benefited immensely.

David attended Texas Tech and graduated from the Southern Methodist University's Graduate School of Banking. While he works for Plains Capital Corp. in Dallas, he still lives in Lubbock and continues to serve as a board member of the Lubbock Area United Way.

It is with great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, that I honor this dedicated man for his commitment to give back to his community. David Seim has given much of his life to serving his community, and his efforts are greatly appreciated. I wish to congratulate David on his recent award and thank him for his continuing dedication to the public good.

VACCINE INGREDIENT PROVISIONS

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 included provisions related to vaccine injuries that have been misunderstood and misconstrued. I believed then and now that these provisions are good public policy: they clarify that vaccine injury claims involving vaccine ingredients, such as preservatives, are subject to the same no-fault compensation system as other vaccine-related injuries established by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986. The alternative is needless, time consuming, and expensive litigation that is not in the best interests of those who believe they have been injured.

Congress established the Vaccine Program in 1986 for two reasons. The first was to provide definite, speedy, and generous compensation for those who suffer from vaccine-related injuries. The second was to address litigation and insurance costs that were spiraling out of control, which forced current manufacturers to leave the industry and discouraging others from developing important life-saving vaccines.

Now, of all times, is not the moment to allow the Vaccine Program to be dismantled. When

our enemies are engaged and determined to develop and expand their supply of chemical weapons, when we continue to face a terrorists threat at home, and when more and more of our troops are stationed overseas, we need effective vaccine production. We cannot afford to slow research and development, or experience a critical shortage of vaccines.

But this is precisely what is occurring today. Personal injury lawyers, who would like the larger fee that they might receive through litigation, are chipping away at the Vaccine Act in our Nation's courtrooms. They are trying to distinguish injuries allegedly related to ingredients contained in vaccines, such as preservatives, from the vaccine itself, in order to escape the no-fault system. The courts have done a good job at rejecting these attempts. The provisions in the Homeland Security Act simply sought to codify these decisions, preserve the intent of Congress in establishing the Vaccine Program, and ensure that the injured receive speedy and fair compensation.

I continue to support the vaccine ingredient provisions in the Homeland Security Act. I understand the provisions are being repealed without prejudice and not because of the substance. I am confident that these provisions will proceed through the House and be enacted. By reenacting the provisions, I believe Congress will address the issue in a manner that ensures the broad availability of vaccines for the American people.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WAYNE HARRISON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Major Wayne Harrison of Dolores, Colorado. Recently, Major Harrison was recognized for his years of service in the Civil Air Patrol and awarded a Springfield M-14 rifle. Today, I would like to pay tribute to Major Harrison's career and accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Major Harrison began his career in the Civil Air Service as a cadet and moved up through the ranks to eventually teach cadets, passing on his knowledge of airplanes and flying. In fact, Wayne Harrison's superiors were so impressed with his abilities that he was promoted to the position of aerospace officer only a short time after joining the Civil Air Patrol. Serving in the position for three years, Wayne was then asked to become the commander of his squadron and he accepted.

Although the new position and added responsibility would be a challenge, Major Harrison also saw the promotion as an opportunity to help his fellow cadets. Over the years, Major Harrison used his position to serve as a role model to his cadets and helped many of them go on to colleges, military academies, and into the armed forces.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Major Wayne Harrison before this body of Congress and this nation. Major Harrison has served with the diligence, honor and integrity that Americans have come to expect from the Civil Air Patrol, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding American in this Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN FROZEN FOOD INSTITUTE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI) on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary of service to the food industry. AFFI is the only national trade association representing the entire spectrum of frozen food professionals, including processors, suppliers of goods and services, transporters and marketers.

Like other complex enterprises, the frozen food industry benefits not only from competition, but also from cooperative, coordinated action. Launched in 1942 by 19 frozen fruit and vegetable packers, the National Association of Frozen Food Packers went on to become today's American Frozen Food Institute. AFFI's more than 500 member companies account for over 90 percent of the total annual production of frozen food in the United States, valued at more than \$60 billion.

AFFI works to ensure that nourishing and convenient frozen foods are continually abundant, reliable, varied, satisfying and economical. During its years of growing use and popularity, the technology of frozen foods has earned its place among modern America's constructive innovations.

When Clarence Birdseye, one March morning in 1930, optimistically combined an inventor's creativity with a salesman's confidence and arrayed his selection of neatly packaged, quick-frozen foods into a grocery store display case in Springfield, Massachusetts, he inaugurated an industry that would forever change the way the world eats.

The industry's momentum initially was driven by the economy and convenience of frozen foods. However, a further reality ultimately would ensure their enthusiastic endorsement by health experts: frozen foods supply superior nutrition. Following years of scientific studies at the University of Illinois, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration concluded in 1998 that fruits and vegetables picked at peak freshness and immediately frozen contain as many, and often more, nutrients than their raw equivalents. Moreover, for food of all kinds, modern freezing and packaging means unsurpassed food safety, reliable product consistency, and year-round availability anywhere.

In addition, I would invite my colleagues to join Congressman CAL DOOLEY and me on September 25 at the Frozen Food Filibuster, a reception showcasing the variety of frozen foods here in the Cannon Caucus Room. Congressman DOOLEY and I are co-chairmen of the frozen food caucus on Capitol Hill. Caucus participants are Members of Congress who have AFFI member companies' headquarters or plants located within their district, or an interest in the food industry in general. The Institute briefs the membership periodically on issues that affect their constituents who work in the frozen food industry. Our goal is to ensure the caucus is as active and innovative as the nation's frozen food companies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the American Frozen Food Institute. Our democratic institutions